



IFW.  
Docket No. LAM-P1093  
(032747-32)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Robert Steger  
SERIAL NO.: 10/630,584  
FILING DATE: July 29, 2003  
TITLE: METHOD FOR BALANCING RETURN CURRENTS IN  
PLASMA PROCESSING APPARATUS  
EXAMINER: [unknown]  
ART UNIT: [unknown]

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class  
Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1405, on the date  
printed below:

Date: June 17, 2005

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Michelle R. Crosby

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**Mail Stop: Amendment**  
**COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Each item of information listed in the attached FORM PTO-1449, for which a copy of each is attached (unless the blanket waiver referred to below applies), may be material to the examination of the above-identified application and is, therefore, submitted in compliance with the duty of disclosure defined in 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The Examiner is requested to review, consider and document each such item in the official record of this application.

Note: If this box ☒ is checked, this case was filed after June 30, 2003 and qualifies for the blanket waiver of deposit of copies of U.S. Patents and U.S. Patent Application Publications in accordance with the written waiver of 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(2)(i) dated July 11, 2003. Accordingly, such copies are not attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one or more of these items constitutes prior art.

I

This statement is filed pursuant to (**CHECK ONE BOX**):

☒

**37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).**

This information disclosure statement is filed either:

- (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d);
- (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application;
- (3) before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits; or
- (4) before the mailing of a first office action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114, **whichever event occurs last.**

**Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires no fee and no certification.**

☐

**37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).**

This information disclosure statement is filed **after** the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), but **before** the mailing date of any of the following:

- (1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113;
- (2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or
- (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

**Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires either:**

- (1) the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c); or
- (2) a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) or (2).

☐

**37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).**

This information disclosure statement is filed **after** the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c).

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires:

- (1) a certification in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); and
- (2) the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) to consider an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

If this statement crosses in the mail with an office action, or is otherwise not in the indicated category of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, it is respectfully requested that this statement be treated in the next appropriate category and made of record. **To the extent required, please treat this paper as a conditional petition for acceptance of the information disclosure statement.**

## II

Fees Due (**CHECK ONE BOX**):

- ☒ No fee is due.
- ☐ The fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) or 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) is enclosed (**\$180**).

## III

Certification (**CHECK ONE BOX**):

- ☐ No certification is necessary.
- ☐ Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned hereby certifies:  
That each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), the undersigned hereby certifies:  
No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

IV

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment to our deposit account number 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP



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David B. Ritchie  
Reg. No.: 31,562

Dated: June 17, 2005

THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP  
P.O. Box 640640  
San Jose, CA 95164-0640  
(408) 292-5800 office  
(408) 287-8040 fax

**TRANSMITTAL  
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

<b>Total Number of Pages in This Submission</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Application Number</b>	10/630,584
		<b>Filing Date</b>	July 29, 2003
		<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Robert J. Steger
		<b>Art Unit</b>	1753
		<b>Examiner Name</b>	unassigned
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>		LAM-P1093	

**ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Postcard 1449 copy of cited art (1 piece) copy of International Search Report
<b>Remarks</b>		

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

<b>Firm</b>	THELEN, REID, & PRIEST LLP		
<b>Signature</b>			
<b>Printed Name</b>	David B. Ritchie		
<b>Date</b>	June 17, 2005	<b>Reg. No.</b>	31,562

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

<b>Signature</b>			
<b>Typed or printed name</b>	Michelle R. Crosby	<b>Date</b>	June 17, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

